

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00487 071118Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /010 W
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O 041100Z MAY 75
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1952

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER

1. LOCAL SWISSAIR MANAGER HAS OFFERED ME FREE ROUND TRIP TICKET BAGHDAD - TORONTO - BAGHDAD IN CONNECTION WITH NEW SWISSAIR ZURICH - TRONTO SERVICE. ONLY CONDITION IS THAT I FLY ON INAUGURAL FLIGHT FROM ZURICH TO TORONTO ON MAY 25. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PUBLICITY OR SOCIAL EVENTS, BUT THAT INAUGURAL FLIGHT GIVES SWISSAIR RIGHT UNDER ICAO RULES TO OFFER FREE FLIGHTS TO SELECTED INDIVIDUALS. I ASSUME THAT HIS PURPOSE IN OFFERING IT TO ME IS TO ENCOURAGE GROWNING NUMBER OF U.S. CITIZENS VISITING BAGHDAD TO USE SWISSAIR RATHER THAN COMPETING EUROPEAN AIRLINES. NO U.S. AIRLINE PRESENTLY SERVES BAGHDAD.

2. THIS OFFER COMES AT PARTICULARLY AUSPICIOUS TIME IN VIEW OF MY DIRECT TRANSFER TO CAIRO THIS SUMMER. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS I WILL ACCEPT IT AND THEN PROCEED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS WEEK OF MAY 26 AND PERHAPS SOME OF FOLLOWING WEEK. I BELIEVE CONSULTATION WOULD BE MOST WORTHWHILE AT THIS STAGE OF U.S. - IRAQI RELATIONS AND IN VIEW OF USINT PROPOSAL (A-7) FOR EXPANSION TO SMALL EMBASSY SIZE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS CONNECTED THEREWITH. IN ADDITION, FACT THAT NO WASHINGTON BASED USG OFFICIALS HAVE SERVED IN BAGHDAD SINCE 1967 WOULD MAKE CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES PARTICULARLY USEFUL. I WOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM SEVERAL DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR MY CAIRO ASSIGNMENT.

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00487 071118Z

3. ONLY EXPENSES INVOLVED WOULD BE MY AIR FARE FROM TORONTO

TO WASHINGTON AND PER DIEM DURING CONSULTATIONS. SINCE I ALSO
HAVE PERSONAL BUSINESS TO CONDUCT RELATED TO TRANSFER TO CAIRO,
I WOULD BE WILLING TO BEAR THESE EXPENSES PERSONALLY IF
NECESSARY. I WOULD BE ABSENT FROM BAGHDAD FROM MAY 24 UNTIL
ABOUT JUNE 6 LEAVING IN CHARGE FSO-4 KILLOUGH.

4. SINCE I MUST REPLY TO SWISSAIR BY END OF THIS WEEK REQUEST
IMMEDIATE REPLY.
LOWRIE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAGHDA00487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750159-1040
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacwuo.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER
TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, IZ, US, SWISSAIR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006